

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the careful consideration and favorable treatment of claims 1-12, 14 and 16-20 which stand allowed.

Claims 13, 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braat in view of Foo.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the first optical group includes a number of lenses for providing image reduction and having a lens being arranged immediately adjacent to the first optical group.

Claim 13 has also been amended to simply further clarify an already existing feature of the claim, namely, that the recited first, second, third and fourth mirrors are part of the first optical group. This amendment does not require further consideration by the Examiner and further does not require further searching since pending claim 13 already recited that the first optical group includes an even number of at least six mirrors.

The present amendment to claim 13 further clarifies the relationship of the first optical group and in particular the mirrors thereof. In particular, this present amendment precludes the Examiner from continuing to dissect the mirrors of Braat in that the Examiner previously only regarded the first six mirrors and not the seventh mirror of Braat as being part of the first optical group. The present amendment to claim 13 precludes the Examiner from taking such position and therefore, the proper reading of Braat includes the seventh mirror. Based on the present amendment to claim 13, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim are in order.

Applicants believe that no further searching is required since the present amendment merely clarifies an existing feature and an argument that was previously set forth to the Examiner.

Claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 32 has been amended to recite and clarify that the last mirror is part of the first optical group. This amendment makes clear that the first mirror and the last mirror belong the first optical group. As a consequence, the lens arranged between the first mirror and the last mirror also belongs to the first optical group. However, in the first optical group according to Braat which the Examiner is combining the second optical group according to Foo (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,207), there is no lens.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 32 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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